ASSEMBLY BILL   No. 2430

Introduced by Assembly Member Umberg

February 23, 2006

An act to add Section 9054 to the Elections Code, relating to ballot measures.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2430, as introduced, Umberg. Ballot materials: translations.

Existing federal law, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, requires every state or political subdivision meeting certain criteria to provide bilingual voting materials to citizens of language minorities to ensure their full participation in the electoral process.

The California Constitution and existing state law requires the Legislature to prohibit improper practices that affect elections, including a citizen's right to vote.

This bill would require the Secretary of State to provide a translation of the ballot title and summary of ballot materials in a language other than English to the local elections official whenever a city or county is required to do so by the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 for each measure submitted to the voters in a statewide primary or general election.

The bill would also require the local elections official to use that translation, as specified, and would prohibit him or her from selecting or contracting with another person to provide translations of the same text.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 9054 is added to the Elections Code, to
2 read:
3 9054. (a) Whenever a city or county is required by Section
4 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. Sec.
5 1973aa-1a) to provide a translation of ballot materials in a
6 language other than English, the Secretary of State shall provide
7 a translation of the ballot title and summary in that language to
8 the city or county for each measure submitted to the voters in a
9 statewide primary or general election.
10 (b) The local elections official shall use that translation on the
11 sample ballot and the official ballot and may not select or
12 contract with another person to provide translations of the same
13 text.

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